

THE VVFC NEWS ALERT BACKPAGE OCT/NOV 2007

Influenza News

Many providers have called the VVFC office to discuss the timing of our seasonal influenza vaccine shipments and everyone has expressed concern about not being able to conduct clinics on time. Unfortunately, we cannot ship the vaccine until it is received at our distributor from the manufacturer. Please be assured, we are doing everything we can to distribute the vaccine as soon as we are notified of its availability at our distributor.

We have started to ship influenza vaccine; however, not all facilities have received vaccine. All local health departments (LHD) have VVFC influenza vaccine and most non-LHD facilities have some vaccine. Shipments are sent on a weekly basis.

On September 19, 2007, the FDA approved the use of nasal influenza vaccine LAIV (FluMist) for healthy children 24-59 months of age without a history of recurrent wheezing. **This change is NOT yet approved for VVFC eligible children.** The ACIP is scheduled to review this expansion on October 24, 2007, and their decision will be posted on the CDC web site at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/acip-vfc-resolutions.htm.



Merck Supply Update



On May 11, 2007, Merck announced a shortage of MMRV (ProQuad) and beginning June it was no longer available from VVFC. According to Merck, it is too early to predict when production will resume in 2008. Orders for MMRV will be filled with varicella and MMR vaccine.

In August Merck also announced a shortage of their Hepatitis A, Vaqta, and in September it was no longer available through the VVFC program. Merck predicts a return of Vaqta late first quarter of 2008. Any order for VVFC Hepatitis A will be filled with the GlaxoSmithKline product, Havrix, until Merck's Vaqta shipments resume and VVFC can once again offer brand choice.

Merck's varicella vaccine, Varivax, is currently experiencing a shipping delay. Product is expected to ship between 6-8 weeks after an order is submitted. It is unknown how long this shipping delay will last.

For additional information on shipping delays and vaccine shortages, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages/default.htm>.



Holiday Shipping

Our distributor, McKesson, ships on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays only. Orders have 5 shipping days to be shipped once they are received by McKesson. During the holiday season, please be aware that shipments may be delayed. McKesson will not be shipping on November 21st, 22nd, 23rd, December 24th, 25th and January 1, 2008.



"My vaccine tag alert is blinking..."

Please train all staff, including front office staff, how to receive and store vaccine shipments upon arrival.

1. Check the ice packs to see if they are hard or soft.
2. Touch the vaccine to see if they are warm or cool.
3. If they are cool, please refrigerate the vaccines.
4. Call VVFC with these details and we will advise you on the viability of your vaccine shipment.

Vaccine Order Holds

If you have a hold placed on your VVFC vaccine shipments because of a late registration, inadequate temperatures, or late accountability/tally reports, you cannot receive any vaccine shipments (including influenza). Please clear up your hold right away to resume shipments. If you are not sure if you have a vaccine hold, please contact your consultant.



In The Spotlight

Gold Stars awarded July-August 2007.

Exceptional Immunization Rates

Child Health Care of Manassas, Manassas
Family Practice and Pediatrics, Inc., Herndon
Practice of Dr. Wijetilleke, Arlington

(Immunization rates exceed 90% using CoCASA software)

Outstanding VVFC Compliance

Family Care In The Plains, The Plains
Sacoto Pediatrics, P.C., Arlington
Stafford Pediatrics, P.C., Stafford
Warrenton Pediatrics, Warrenton

Order Center Tips

- Put your PIN on all correspondence
- Re-faxing orders leads to double shipments and vaccine waste
- Notify Order Center about all transfers
- Place orders quarterly unless otherwise authorized by your consultant

